紫色の潔白

Purple Innocence

DO NOT REDISTRIBUTE OUTSIDE IRC WITHOUT PERMISSION.

I'LL BE WATCHING...

REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE MANGAKA!!

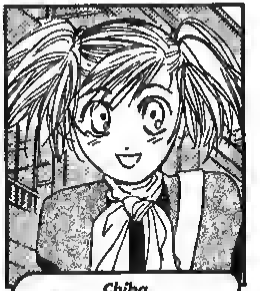
HANDS OFF!
6
KASANE KATSUMOTO
TOKYOPOP

CHARACTERS

Karen
A wannabe photographer with a fascination for Tatsuki and Kotarou

Mio Yoshino
Kotarou's hottie girlfriend, a second-year at Tachibana High

Akira
A weird kid who lives in Kotarou's neighborhood



Chiba
Mio's loyal underclassman She's not a fan of Kotarou and Mio dating

Kotarou Oshiro—residing with his grandfather and cousin in a cozy home in Tokyo—is having a rough year. Not only is he constantly getting dragged into the seedy underbelly of Tokyo, but his classmate Yuuto follows him like a bored puppy—and Kotarou's cousin, Tatsuki, seems to inexplicably hate Kotarou's guts. To make things more complicated, Kazuma Kaotari transferred into school, claiming both he and Tatsuki were gifted with psychic powers... and for whatever reason, Tatsuki panicked and skipped town. Kotarou followed his cousin and convinced him to return, but what exactly is the problem between Tatsuki and Kazuma?

Hands Off! Vol. 6
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by

Kasane Katsumoto

TOKYOPOP®

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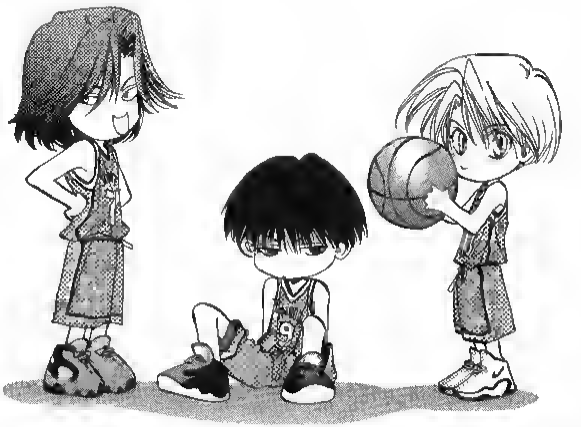
ACT 19
PARTY TICKETS?
THIS DANCE? MASHA'S PLAYING--IT'S A SECRET CONCERT
ヒソ..
AH, DON'T BE A CHEAP-SKATE
LISTEN
MURMUR
MURMUR
YEAH. WE'RE HAVING A KILLER DANCE NEXT WEEKEND YOU IN?
BRING YOUR GIRL, AND IT'S 10,000 YEN TOTAL
YIKES! THAT'S WAY TOO MUCH!
MIO SAID SHE REALLY LIKED THEM
MASHA...

& STORY

Tatsuki Oohira
Kotarou's cousin. Kotarou unknowingly gave him postcognition during their childhood years, since Tatsuki hates the power, he's less than friendly toward Kotarou.
Kotarou Oohira
A high school freshman who despises his effeminacy. Kotarou has some sort of special touch based ESP, but he's still unaware of it. Currently dating Mio.
Yuuto Urushiyama
A classmate to Kotarou and Tatsuki. Friendly but a bit of a goofball. Yuuto can analyze people by reading their emotional auras (and hence is also a psychic).
Kazuma Kouteri
The mysterious (and mercurial) transfer student who appears to have powers of his own. He despises Tatsuki, although no one knows why...

ACT 19

AW, ARE WE WORRIED?
!
BUT MAN, LOSING 10,000 YEN..
THAT SUCKS.
YOU'RE A REAL SOFTIE WHEN IT COMES TO THE KID
KOUTAZI
NOW, NOW-- DON'T IGNORE ME
フー
ケイ



SWEET MERCIFUL GOD!

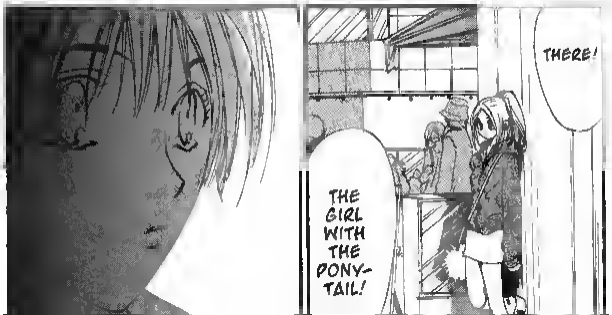
WHAT HAPPENED, KOTAROU?!
TALK TO YUU-TO!
I'M ON THE BASKETBALL TEAM AND I'VE GOT ENOUGH ENERGY TO POWER A CITY.
I'M KOTAROU OOHIRA, A HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMAN.
SOMEONE'S KILLED MY BABY!

THAT'S TERRIBLE!

HUH?
DON'T LET THIS SLIDE, KOTAROU! WHAT SHE DID--

REALLY?
WHERE?!
NO WAY THAT'S HER!

YOU HAVE TO FIND THAT GIRL AND GET YOUR MONEY BACK
WELL, SURE, BUT--
I DOUBT SHE'D BE HERE AGAIN


THERE!
THE GIRL WITH THE PONY-TAIL!

ACT 19
WHAT THE HELL?
DOES MIO KNOW HER?!
HEY! MIO!
WHAT'S UP?
MOMOKA?
YOU SOLD THEM TO ME YESTERDAY
I KNOW THEY'RE FAKES!
QUIT FOOLING AROUND
PARTY TICKETS?
UM. NO. WHY?
IS THAT YOUR BOYFRIEND?
HE'S A CUTIE
MOMOKA BE HONEST WITH ME
ARE YOU SELLING PARTY TICKETS?
OOH ...!
Heh

NOT THE ONES FROM THE SHOPPING CENTER?
WHERE THEY SAY THERE'S A SECRET CONCERT?
FAKE PARTY TICKETS?
THE KID GOT SUCKERED INTO BUYING FAKE PARTY TICKETS
TWO OF 'EM!
CHECK IT OUT, YUUTO
AT LEAST, UNTIL THIS CURSED DAY
LEMME GUESS-- THE GIRL WAS CUTE, SO YOU WERE INCLINED TO BELIEVE HER?
YOU COULDN'T BE MORE OF A SUCKER IF YOU WERE A PEKING DUCK TOLD TO RUN AROUND WITH PLUM SAUCE ON YOUR BACK
stab
stab
OH, MY NAIVE LITTLE DARLING.
THAT SCAM'S FOR BUMPKIN MIDDLE SCHOOLERS ON TOKYO FIELD TRIPS
B-BUT HIS RAGE! IT'S SO DARLING!
I simply must tease him
YOU AWFUL MAN
OOOH I SAW TEARS, YO
LOOK WHAT YOU DID!
SHUT UP AND LEAVE ME ALONE!
HEY! KOTARO!

ACT 19

BUT... TO EACH HIS OWN. LATER!
I THINK THAT'S KINDA SAD.
A REAL MAN DOESN'T GET JERKED AROUND BY LITTLE TRICKS.
THAT'S SUCH A TURN-OFF FOR ME, Y'KNOW?
TOO BAD HE'S KINDA NAIVE.

RYO!

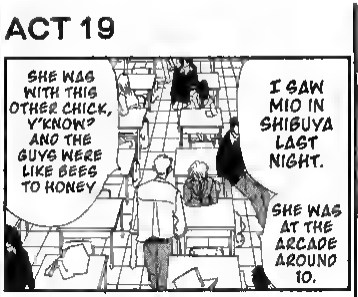
HEY MOMO
LOOK, SWEET-IE
YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG GIRL.

WAIT A MINUTE, MOMOKA!
THERE ARE TONS OF SCAM ARTISTS THESE DAYS
SEE YA
OH, AND MAYBE YOU'D BETTER KEEP A CLOSER EYE ON YOUR BOYFRIEND.

ISN'T HE A HOTTIE ?
HEH HEH
THIS HERE'S MY MAN
HE'S WICKED SMART-- HE'S MAJORING IN SCIENCE AND TECHNO-LOGY

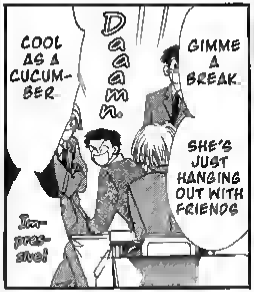
AND WITH SKIN LIKE THAT?
HE'S LIKE A LITTLE GIRL!
H e h
SERIOUSLY, HE'S CUTE AS HELL

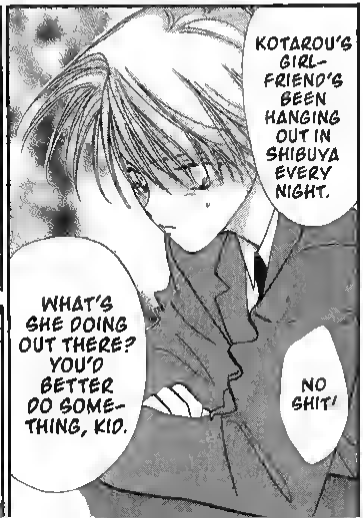
ACT 19


I SAW MIO IN SHIBUYA LAST NIGHT.
SHE WAS AT THE ARCADE AROUND 10.
SHE WAS WITH THIS OTHER CHICK, Y'KNOW? AND THE GUYS WERE LIKE BEES TO HONEY

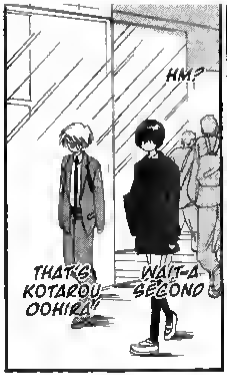
SEVERAL DAYS LATER
HEY! KOTA-ROU!

SERIOUS? I MEAN, I HEARD SOME-THING--
HEARD WHAT?
GET WITH IT, DOO-FUS

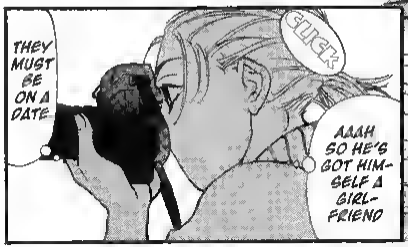

GIMME A BREAK.
SHE'S JUST HANGING OUT WITH FRIENDS
Daaamn.
COOL AS A CUCUM-BER
Im-pres-sive!


KOTAROU'S GIRL-FRIEND'S BEEN HANGING OUT IN SHIBUYA EVERY NIGHT.
NO SHIT!
WHAT'S SHE DOING OUT THERE? YOU'D BETTER DO SOME-THING, KIO.

KOTAROU'S NOT COOL ABOUT THIS A BIT.


HM.?
THAT'S KOTAROU OOHIRA!
WAIT-A SECOND

WOW.
I MIGHT AS WELL GET A SHOT
PRETTY GIRL


CLICK
THEY MUST BE ON A DATE
AAAH SO HE'S GOT HIM-SELF A GIRL-FRIEND

MAN. THIS IS AWK-WARD.

OR NOT? THEY DON'T LOOK TOO HAPPY.
CLICK

ACT 19

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE TICKETS, MIO.
I'LL LIVE.
WHATEVER. MAYBE I DID MIX HER UP WITH ANOTHER GIRL
I WOULDN'T BLAME HER FOR BEING PISSED
BUT GOD. I HAD NO IDEA SHE COULD BE SO RUDE
I'M SORRY.
SHE'S A CLASS-MATE, KOTA-ROU

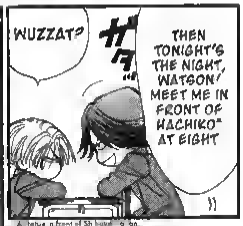
MIO?

SEE YOU LATER.
WHA?!
OH! UM, SORRY.
HUH?
I, UM...
I HAVE TO G-GO
YOU LOOK PALE. ARE YOU--

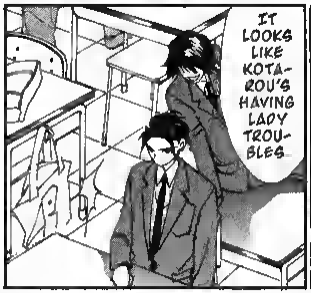
HE'S WORRIED SICK.
...HE JUST MIGHT DROWN IN IT.
IF THAT BLUE-GREEN GETS ANY BIGGER...

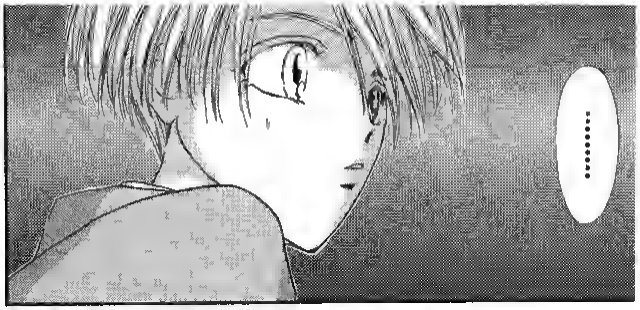
TOO BAD HE'S KINDA NAIVE
THAT'S SUCH A TURN-OFF FOR ME, Y'KNOW?
A REAL MAN DOESN'T GET JERKED AROUND BY LITTLE TRICKS

BUT SAM WORRIED SHE HASN'T BEEN HERSELF LATELY AND SO ISN'T GETTING HER AT HOME OR ON HER CELL
WHATEVER. I DON'T HAVE ANY DAY OVER WHAT MIO DOES.
THIS ALL STARTED WHEN WE MET THAT MOMOKA GIRL


WUZZAT?
THEN TONIGHT'S THE NIGHT, WATSON! MEET ME IN FRONT OF HACHIKO AT EIGHT

I'M NOT GONNA STALK MY GIRL-FRIEND!
IT'S TIME WE TAILED MIO SOMETHING'S OBVIOUSLY GOING ON.





WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?

AREN'T YOU GONNA SAVE THE DAY LIKE A GOOD TRAGIC HERO?
UNLESS YOU'RE SCARED SHITLESS OF WHAT I CAN DO TO YOU.
DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF
I COULD CARE LESS ABOUT YOU.
I RUN MY OWN LIFE.

ACT 19

I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE.
I JUST FINISHED WORK, BUT I'M GOING OUT FOR A WHILE.
COULD YOU TELL GRAMPA I'M GONNA BE LATE?
TATSUKI!
eeks
JUST OUT.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
CHIBA?
UH, HELLO? CAN YOU DO IT OR NOT?

UM— HI
I WAS JUST WONDER-ING.
HOW'S KOTA-ROU DOING?
See ya!
キーンコーン
TA-TSU-KI?
HM?
OH. UM, RIGHT
HE'S IN THE GYM.

ACT 19

HUH?!
WANT ME TO GET HIM?

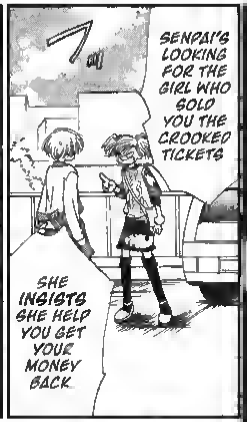
CHANGED?
ME?

I WAS JUST PASSING BY
N-NO!
THAT'S OKAY

YOU KNOW SOMETHING?
YOU'VE CHANGED A LITTLE, TATSUKI

HEY!

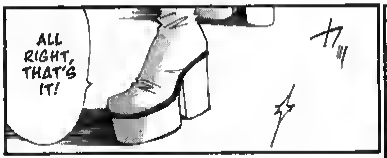
SHE'S INVESTIGATING THE DEEGS OF SOCIETY FOR YOU!
IF SHE GETS HURT, IT'S YOUR NECK!


SENPAI'S LOOKING FOR THE GIRL WHO SOLD YOU THE CROOKED TICKETS
SHE INSISTS SHE HELP YOU GET YOUR MONEY BACK

OW!
SO, THAT'S IT

ACT 19

HUH?
GET ON
ドゥドゥドゥ
ホン
HOW DID HE..
I'LL TAKE YOU TO SHIBUYA
?!
WHOA.


ALL RIGHT, THAT'S IT!

PRUPRUP
PRUPRUP
WAK

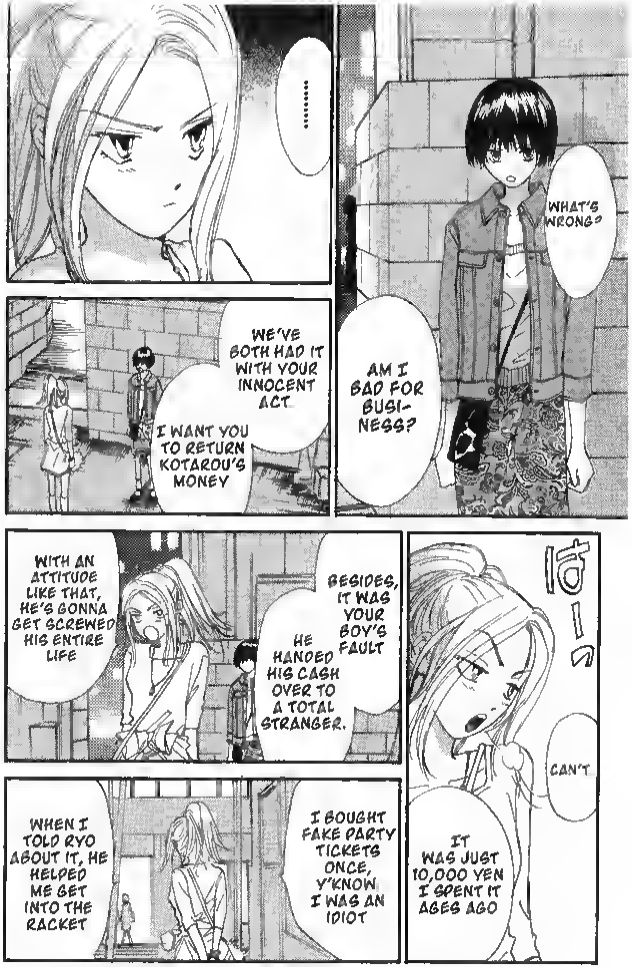
KEEP FOLLOWING ME AND I CALL THE COPS!

!!
BEEP BEEP BEEP
MAN MAYBE MIO REALLY IS AVOIDING ME.
clang
NOW HER CELL PHONE'S OFF.
YES, HOW CAN I HELP--
OI. BLONDIE.
PRRRR
PRRRR

CHIBA!

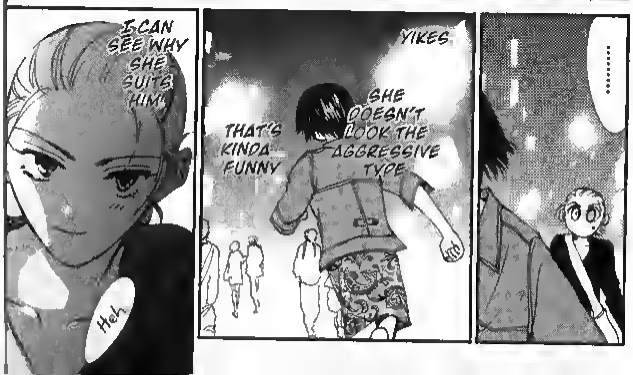
WHAT?
KNOW THAT I'M GOING BEHIND MIO-SENPAI'S BACK FOR THIS
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?!
WE HAVE TO TALK, SCUM
GET LOST!

I COULD NEVER GO OUT WITH A GUY WITH NO--
Y'KNOW WHAT THEY SAY. WHO'S A DUDE NOW?
I PITY YOU, MIO. YOUR BOYFRIEND'S A MORON
KOTAROU IS NOT STUPID!
THAT "RYO" DOESN'T SEEM TO CARE ABOUT YOU AT ALL!
I PITY YOU, MOMOKA
TRUSTING HIM PROVES HOW NAIVE YOU ARE
WHAT KIND OF A MAN WOULD MAKE HIS OWN GIRLFRIEND A SCAM ARTIST?


.....
WHAT'S WRONG?
AM I BAD FOR BUSINESS?
WE'VE BOTH HAD IT WITH YOUR INNOCENT ACT.
I WANT YOU TO RETURN KOTAROU'S MONEY
WITH AN ATTITUDE LIKE THAT, HE'S GONNA GET SCREWED HIS ENTIRE LIFE
BESIDES, IT WAS YOUR BOY'S FAULT
HE HANDED HIS CASH OVER TO A TOTAL STRANGER.
はい
CAN'T
IT WAS JUST 10,000 YEN I SPENT IT AGES AGO
WHEN I TOLD RYO ABOUT IT, HE HELPED ME GET INTO THE RACKET
I BOUGHT FAKE PARTY TICKETS ONCE, Y'KNOW. I WAS AN IDIOT

SHE SOLD FAKE PARTY TICKETS TO MY BOYFRIEND
I WAS ORIGINALLY JUST AFTER HER TO RETURN HIS MONEY..
BUT NOW IT'S PERSONAL
HEY, WAIT!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE OTHER GIRL?

I'LL MAKE HER PAY IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO!
THERE IS NO WAY SHE'S GETTING AWAY FROM ME.


I CAN SEE WHY SHE SUITS HIM.
Heh.
YIKES.
SHE DOESN'T LOOK THE AGGRESSIVE TYPE
THAT'S KINDA FUNNY
.....

AAAH!

OH
I'M F-FINE.
WHAT WAS THAT?
ARE YOU OKAY?
M-MOMOKA! WAIT!
COFFEE
!
WASN'T SHE WITH KOTAROU OOHIRA?
I KNOW THIS GIRL
HOLD ON
THANK YOU

ACT 19

HUH?
WHAT'S THAT WAY?
TATSUKI!
THAT'S HER
THIS WAY.
VROOM
VROOM
GAME
KAIKAN
Kooom
ringa ling ching
I'M GETTING NOWHERE FAST.
OOF!
'SUP, YUUTO?
DID YOUR GIRLFRIEND FLEE YOUR WILD WAYS?
I'M BUSY KUSH.
HEY I'M LOOKING FOR THIS GIRL. HAVE YOU SEEN HER?
WHO'S SHE?
YOWZA

AcHoo!

Not listening
無視
STUPID ASS!

OH, AND THANKS FOR THE RIDE
DID YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO DO IN SHIBUYA TOO?

THANKS
TRAVEL TISSUES?
GOD, HE'S A NEAT FREAK

YOU SAW FLOOR FOUR TOO, RIGHT?
beep
YOU'RE GOING UP NOW?!
shoom
Rattle
Cree
EXCUSE ME...
I THINK THIS IS WHERE THE PARTY SCAM OPERATES FROM
MAYBE I CAN FIND MY BOYFRIEND'S MONEY HERE.
THIS GIRL IS HARDCORE
SHE COULD BE MY TICKET TO SWEET SHOTS

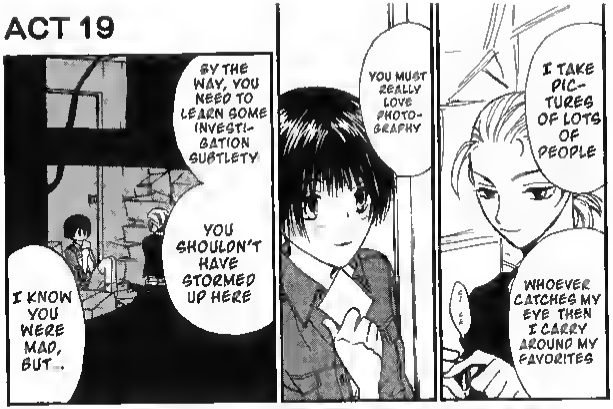
はっぴ
I'LL HATE YOU FOREVER IF YOU FAIL HER! GRAH!
EGAD!
I'M LOOKING FOR MIO
TATSUKI'S HERE
REALLY?
SHUFFLING OFF AFTER SOMETHING
Mmff
YUUTO.
JIMINY CRICKETS!
KOTAROU?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN SHIBUYA?!
IS THAT WHY TATSUKI'S HERE WITH YOU?
AH CHANGED
Thanks for the clarification
SO, UH, IS MY LIFE SPARED? BECAUSE I ENJOY LIFE ON A REGULAR BASIS
I'M NOT MAD AT YOU THINGS'VE CHANGED

ACT 19

NO!
CLICK
LET US OUT!
YOU OPEN THE DOOR THIS INSTANT!
MOMOKA!
AAAGH!
TAKING PHOTOS
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHAT? WHY?
EASY LET'S NOT GIVE THEM AN EXCUSE TO KNOCK US AROUND
THE NERVE!
I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME!
.....

HEY!
WHATEVER MAKE IT A PARTY
TWO?
WHICH BITCH IS IT?
WATCH THE HANDS, SLIME-BAG!
Stop it!
YO
THERE'RE TWO OF 'EM HERE.
GOT IT GO DO YOUR THING, MOMO
MOMOKA!
LOCK THEM UP FOR A FEW HOURS
I CAN'T WORK WITH STRAYS ON MY HEELS
Nuh-uh!
THEY PROBABLY HAVE CELL PHONES
JUST TAKE HER BAG, GENIUS.
MOMOKA!

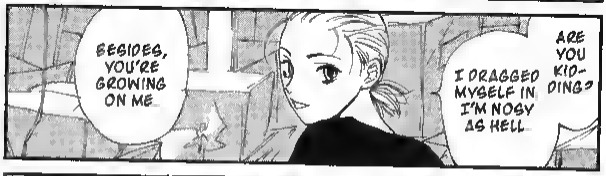
ACT 19


BY THE WAY, YOU NEED TO LEARN SOME INVESTIGATION SUBTLETY
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE STORMED UP HERE
I KNOW YOU WERE MAD, BUT...
YOU MUST REALLY LOVE PHOTOGRAPHY
I TAKE PICTURES OF LOTS OF PEOPLE
WHOEVER CATCHES MY EYE THEN I CARRY AROUND MY FAVORITES

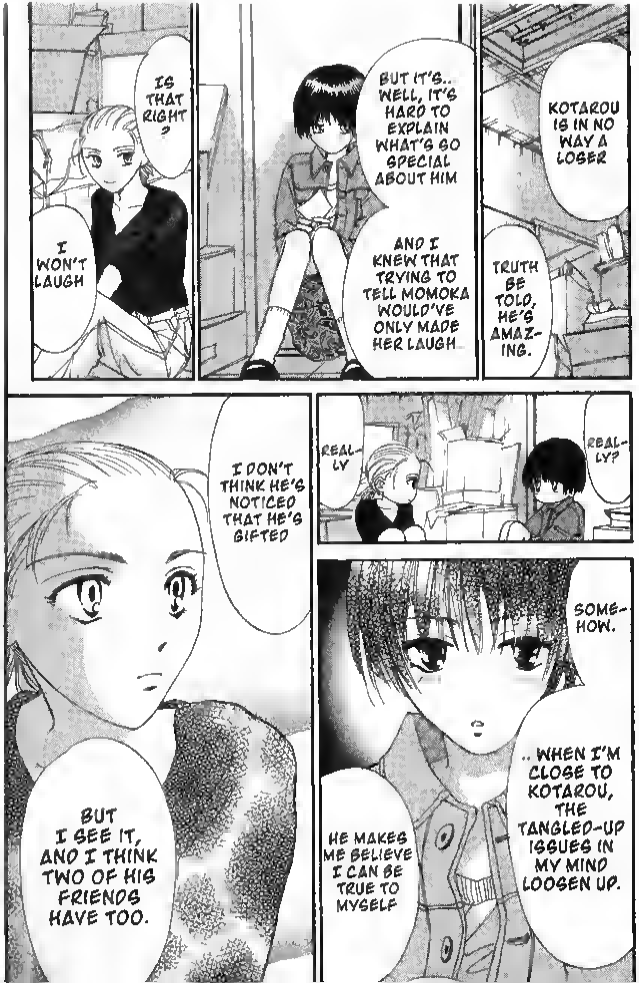
DO YOU KNOW WHY KOTAROU BOUGHT THOSE FAKE TICKETS IN THE FIRST PLACE?
HE KNEW I LIKED MASHA SO HE WENT AGAINST HIS BETTER JUDGMENT
YOU'RE RIGHT I WAS MAD

CAN YOU BELIEVE THAT?
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE HER
MOMOKA THOUGHT HE WAS SCAMMED BECAUSE HE WAS STUPID.
SHE CALLED HIM A LOSER HIS FACE. TO HIS FACE!

I DIDN'T MEAN TO DRAG YOU IN
I'M SORRY
THIS WAS MY BUSINESS, NOT YOURS
WELL, SO WE CAN HAVE EVIDENCE OF THEM LOCKING US IN HERE
I LIKE TO PLAN AHEAD.


BESIDES, YOU'RE GROWING ON ME
I DRAGGED MYSELF IN I'M NOSY AS HELL
ARE YOU KIDDING?

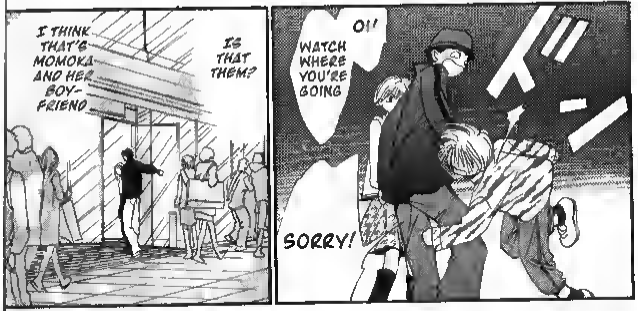
IMPOSSIBLE
A SECRET RIVAL ?!
WHOA! CALM DOWN!
I BARELY KNOW THE GUY
DON'T GET ME WRONG
TH-THIS IS KOTAROU!
WHAT ?!
HUH?
?
I MIGHT AS WELL SEAL THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH A GIFT.
IT'S ONE OF MY BETTER ONES

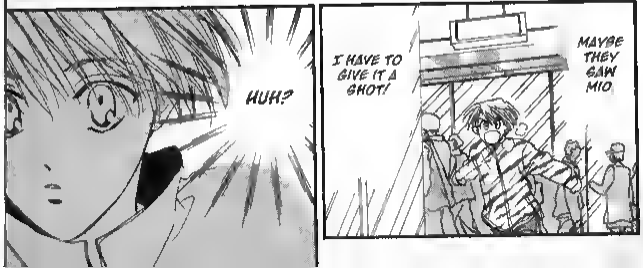

IS THAT RIGHT?
I WON'T LAUGH
BUT IT'S.. WELL, IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT HIM
AND I KNEW THAT TRYING TO TELL MOMOKA WOULD'VE ONLY MADE HER LAUGH
KOTAROU IS IN NO WAY A LOSER
TRUTH BE TOLD, HE'S AMAZING.
I DON'T THINK HE'S NOTICED THAT HE'S GIFTED
BUT I SEE IT, AND I THINK TWO OF HIS FRIENDS HAVE TOO.
REALLY
REALLY?
SOMEHOW.
.. WHEN I'M CLOSE TO KOTAROU, THE TANGLED-UP ISSUES IN MY MIND LOOSEN UP.
HE MAKES ME BELIEVE I CAN BE TRUE TO MYSELF

.. WAS MY OWN PATHETIC INSECURITY
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT
THE ONLY REASON I THOUGHT MIO WAS IGNORING ME
GAB
GAB
I'M SORRY, MIO
PLEASE DON'T GET HURT BECAUSE OF ME!
HUH?
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
THAT'S WEIRD.
KOTAROU'S AURA IS CLEARING
AND WHAT'S THAT WHITE?

HE MAKES PEOPLE GENTLE.
KOTAROU HAS A POWER...
...THAT'S HONESTLY MIRACULOUS

HEY! WATCH THE NECK!
YOU COME HERE
WHA ?!
SHE'S ON THE FOURTH FLOOR
WAIT A SECOND!
KOTA-ROU?! WHERE ...
!


I THINK THAT'S MOMOKA AND HER BOY-FRIEND
IS THAT THEM?
OI!
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING
SORRY!


HUH?
I HAVE TO GIVE IT A SHOT!
MAYBE THEY SAW MIO

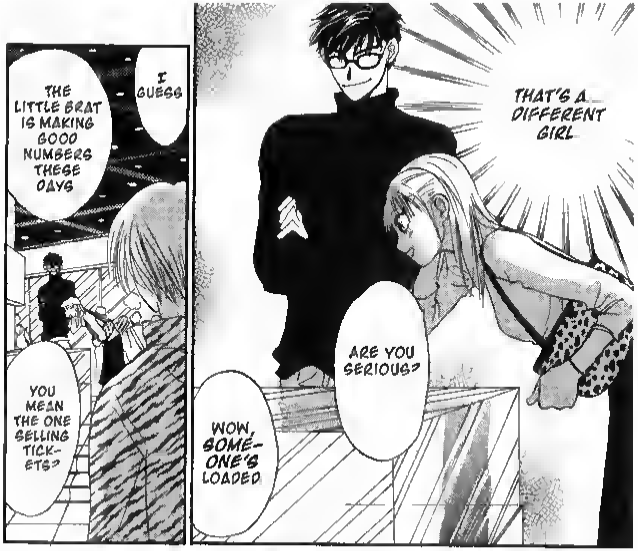
A BUILDING?
Kyuu Ramen
HEY, TATSUKI ARE YOU SURE THIS'S THE WAY?
THEY TOOK THE ELEVATOR
MINAMI SAID HE SAW HER OVER

THAT GUY!
HUH?
TATSUKI~

THEN SHE'S SELLING THOSE TICKETS TO GIVE MONEY TO...

HE'S TALKING ABOUT HER.

MOMO?


I GUESS
THE LITTLE BRAT IS MAKING GOOD NUMBERS THESE DAYS
YOU MEAN THE ONE SELLING TICK-ETS?
THAT'S A DIFFERENT GIRL
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
WOW, SOME-ONE'S LOADED

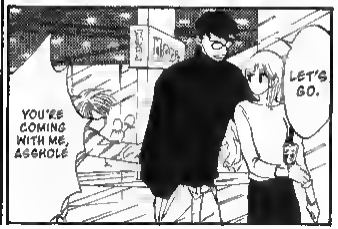
Y'KNOW, YOU SHOULD REALLY STOP WITH THAT
WHAT IF YOU GET ARREST-ED?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT THE GIRL'S CRAZY ABOUT ME
SHE WORKS HER AGS OFF TO FILL MY POCKETS
WAIT A MIN-UTE

ACT 19

I SAID... WE HAVE... TO TALK!
QUIT TRYING TO RUN!
SOME-BODY STOP HIM!
RYO!

KISS IT, YOU LITTLE TURD!
ギリ

WHAT THE HELL DID I JUST..


YOU'RE COMING WITH ME, ASSHOLE
LET'S GO.

...SAY?!
TATSUKI!
WHA?!
OH MY GOD!

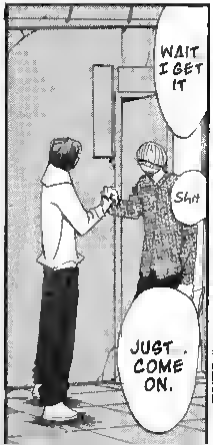
OH
R-RIGHT.
WEIRD
NICE TO ME TODAY
HE'S BEING KINDA
HAVE YOUR TALK.
TATSUKI?
UM... THANKS.

TATSUKI
..
ドゴ
HOLY
WHAT THE HELL?
FIGHT!

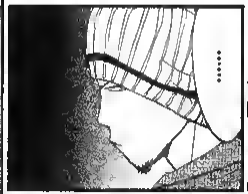
PRETTY GOOD ACTOR, THOUGH
AND I'M NOT MESSING AROUND
LOOK, I KNOW SHE'S HERE

THAT MEANS PANIC.
YOUR AURA'S TURNING ORANGE, UGLY.

BRING ME TO HER OR I CALL THE COPS.
cree
WHAT'S WITH YOU, MAN? I HAVEN'T SEEN ANY GIRL


WAIT I GET IT
Shit
JUST COME ON.

BEEP
YOUR FUNERAL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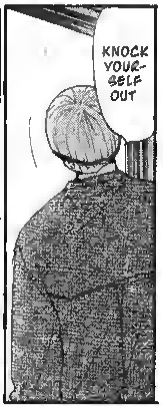
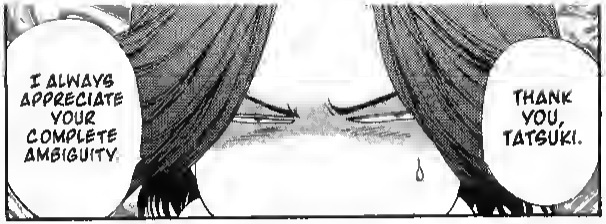

KNOCK YOURSELF OUT


I ALWAYS APPRECIATE YOUR COMPLETE AMBIGUITY.
THANK YOU, TATSUKI.

cree
ERK

FOR ALL I KNOW, SOME GANGSTER'S WAITING IN THERE
Tatsuki doesn't value me!

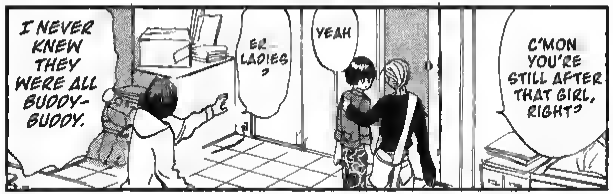
NOW WHAT?
HE SAID "SHE'S" HERE--I HOPE HE MEANT MIO
AND I'M NOT TOO KEEN ON ENTERING THIS SKETCH-FEST ALONE

I'LL BET.

SORRY. CAN'T HELP YA
.....

In a bob
UH, WHAT'S UP?
I'M LOOKING FOR A GIRL WITH HAIR DOWN TO HERE.
SHE'S HIGH SCHOOL AGED

K-K-K-K-KAREN!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
NOT MUCH.
Good, the camera's okay


I NEVER KNEW THEY WERE ALL BUDDY-BUDDY.
ER, LADIES?
YEAH
C'MON YOU'RE STILL AFTER THAT GIRL, RIGHT?

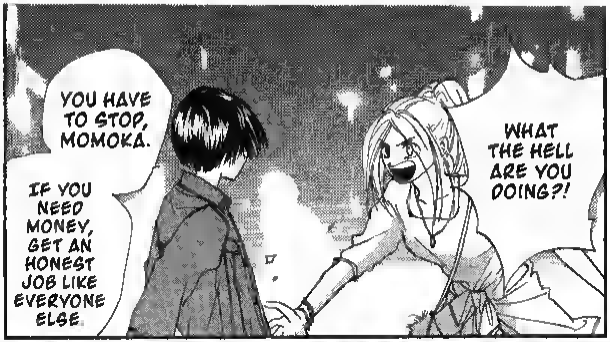
BUT YOU CAN'T FEND OFF THE COPS FOR LONG IF YOU KEEP SELLING THOSE TICKETS.
LUCKY FOR YOU.
UH, LOOK.
WE DIDN'T HURT 'EM OR NOTHIN'

HEY THERE, MIO
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
DID THESE JERKS GIVE YOU TROUBLE?
Slick, dude, slick!

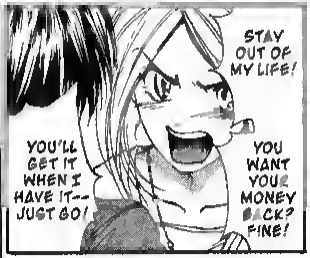
creak
YUUTO!

MWA?
NOT BAD.

CALL IT INSTINCT, IF YOU WILL
IF A BEAUTY IS IN DANGER, YUUTO'S BODY SIMPLY KNOWS
NO.
BUT, WELL.. HOW DID YOU FIND ME?


YOU HAVE TO STOP, MOMOKA.
IF YOU NEED MONEY, GET AN HONEST JOB LIKE EVERYONE ELSE.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR GLASSES, BABY?
DID YOU GET IN A FIGHT?!
OH MY GOD.
IS THIS A BRUISE?


STAY OUT OF MY LIFE!
YOU'LL GET IT WHEN I HAVE IT-- JUST GO!
YOU WANT YOUR MONEY BACK? FINE!

RYO!
!
ENOUGH, MOMO.

ALL YOU NEED IS--

WE'RE HAVING A WICKED DANCE NEXT WEEK.
YOU LIKE TO PARTY?

CHECK IT OUT, GIRLS.
REMIX
ANIMIX

ヒ"リリ
MIO!

ACT 19

YOU'RE SUCH A--
DON'T
THAT'S NOT WHAT WE AGREED ON!
THIS IS WHY I FRIGGIN' HATE KIDS.
WHAT'S HE...
.....
I GET IT. I'M JUST A... CHECKBOOK TO YOU.
F-FINE.
...NN.
WHAT'S HE...

I ONLY TOOK IT BECAUSE SHE OFFERED IT TO ME.
THERE NOW LEAVE ME THE HELL ALONE
YOU GOT THAT?

HUH?
WH...
IS SHE CRY-ING?
CLICK
CLIC

SON OF A BITCH!
HOW COULD YOU?! GOD!
AFTER ALL THAT ?!
ER...
...
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?!

TH-THANK YOU
HAPPY NOW?!
HERE! TAKE YOUR DAMN MONEY!

ㅅ ㅠㅠ

SHE WAS JUST INSE-CURE
AND PRAISED HER BOYFRIEND
THAT'S WHY SHE PUT DOWN KOTAROU
WAAAAAA!
MOMOKA
IT MAKES ME WONDER
SHE STARTED CRYING AFTER KOTAROU OOHIRA TOUCHED HER
MAYBE...
..I JUST SAW THAT POWER MIO WAS TALKING ABOUT
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL
IT'S OKAY
あーん
あーん

ぽた
ぽた
ぽた

HE WAS JUST SEEING ME BECAUSE OF THE MONEY
I KNEW IT
I KNEW RYO COULDN'T C-CARE LESS ABOUT ME.
MOMO-KA
STUPID...
I R-REALLY LIKED HIM!
BUT DAMMIT, I DIDN'T WANNA BELIEVE THAT!

ACT 19

HM?

I NEED TO TAKE MOMOKA HOME
MIO, WAIT
I'LL CALL YOU TONIGHT, OKAY?

SEE YOU LATER, KOTARO

DID YOU THINK I'D GET IN THE WAY?
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST TELL ME YOU WERE LOOKING INTO THE FAKE TICKETS?

OF COURSE NOT!
THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL.

THAT GIRL

AND IT WAS RIGHT AFTER YOU TOUCHED HER KID.
HER AURA WENT COMPLETELY WHITE

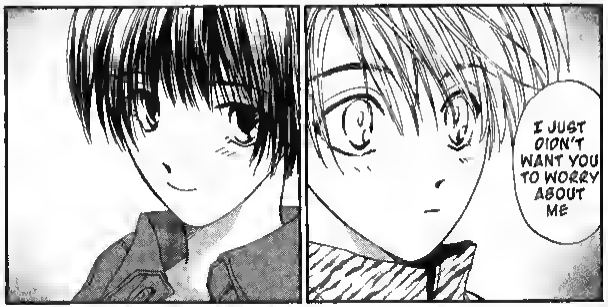
YUUTO!
WAH!
I KNOW. CALM DOWN
Heh!
P-PEOPLE ARE GONNA THINK I MADE HER CRY!
BUT I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!

But I really didn't do anything!
I don't think he's noticed
I DON'T EXACTLY GET IT, BUT MAYBE KOTAROU HAS SOME KIND OF ABILITY TO RELEASE PEOPLE'S FEELINGS

HAVE YOU NOTICED, TATSUKI?

HUNH.

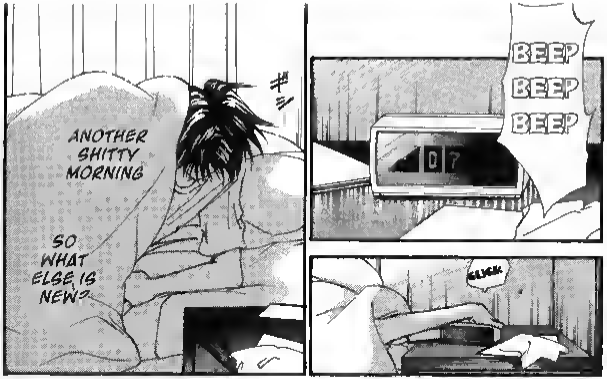
ACT 20


I JUST DIDN'T WANT YOU TO WORRY ABOUT ME

AND THAT'S BECAUSE I LIKE YOU
ACT 19 END

ACT 20
BIG BIG..
!
OH, KAZU.
DON'T CRY.
NN...
NO!
MOM'S JUST SICK.
THAT'S THE ONLY REASON SHE SAYS THOSE THINGS.
DON'T WORRY, OKAY?
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT A LIAR
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT A LIAR!
YOU REALLY DO SEE THINGS.
WAIT, KAZU!

GO
YOU WANNA SLEEP OVER AT MY PLACE?
YEAH
YOU'VE GOT ALL THE BACK ISSUES OF "DUNK," RIGHT?
SHARE THE LOVE ♡
UH, SURE.
SORRY IN ADVANCE--- MY ROOM'S A MESS
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
DID YOU HEAR THAT, MAN?
KOUTARI'S UP TO SOMETHING AGAIN. YOU SHOULD KEEP AN EYE ON KOTAROU IF---
Hm
I'M WORRIED ABOUT YOU, INSEKI!
.....

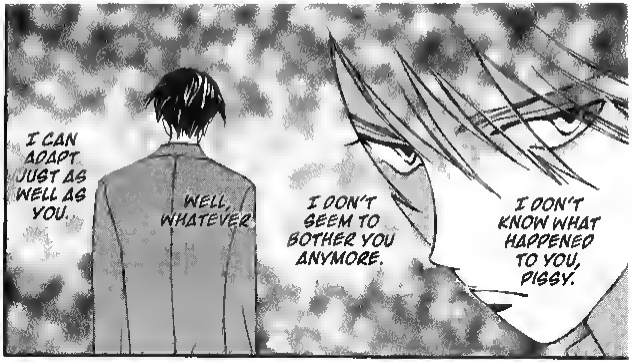

ANOTHER SHITTY MORNING
SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?
BEEP BEEP BEEP?
CLICK

DON'T WORRY, MINA
I'LL GET YOUR REVENGE.

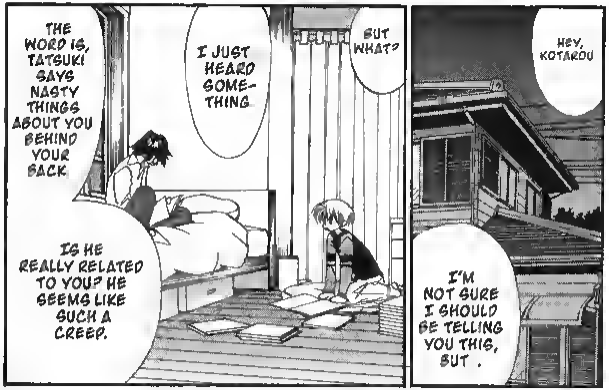
NOTHING CAN STOP ME NOW
HUH?

ACT 20

IT'S NOT LIKE HIS BURNING HATRED FOR ME IS SOME KINDA SECRET
WHATEVER
I DON'T CARE
.....
ズキン…
AWESOME, LEMME SEE!
HEY, CHECK IT OUT!
The Chris Weber issue
I FOUND IT
HUH?
WHAT'S THIS FEELING, ALL OF A SUDDEN?
I CAN'T ACTUALLY BE HESITATING
HERE


I CAN ADAPT JUST AS WELL AS YOU.
WELL, WHATEVER
I DON'T SEEM TO BOTHER YOU ANYMORE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, PIGGY.

SAY GOOD-BYE TO YOUR LITTLE PET.
SINCE YOU'RE ALL ABOUT KOTAROU, I'LL JUST GET THE KID TO LOVE ME.


THE WORD IS, TATSUKI SAYS NASTY THINGS ABOUT YOU BEHIND YOUR BACK.
I JUST HEARD SOMETHING.
BUT WHAT?
IS HE REALLY RELATED TO YOU? HE SEEMS LIKE SUCH A CREEP.
HEY, KOTAROU
I'M NOT SURE I SHOULD BE TELLING YOU THIS, BUT .

ACT 20

UH, YEAH! I DO
Hm
I THOUGHT YOU WANTED THIS
SORRY-- DIDN'T MEAN TO GO ALL SPACEY THERE
HUH?
SHIT
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
THE KID'S THROWING ME OFF, FOR SOME REASON
KAZUMA?
NNN.
NO...
NNGH...
?

THIS ISN'T IT?
SOMETHING'S WRONG
I'M NOT.
DAMMIT, SOMETHING'S WRONG!

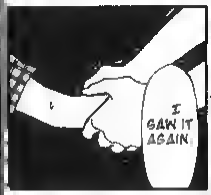
DON'T BE DEAD!
FEEL THAT?
HER HAND IS COLD AS ICE
IT'S TOO LATE.
PLEASE!
SHE... SHE'S WARM!

MAMA'S HAD IT WITH YOUR STORIES!
I TOLD YOU TO STOP!
B-BUT I'M NOT LYING! I REALLY SAW IT!
SISTER IS..
IT'S NOT A LIE!
SHE DIED BECAUSE YOU'RE A LIAR
MINA IS DEAD
STOP LYING!
SHE CAN'T BE DEAD!
SHE ISN'T DEAD

UM...
KAZUMA?

MY OLDER SISTER. IT'S MY FAULT SHE'S DEAD.
HUH?

I THINK YOU HAD A NIGHT-MARE
Didn't expect that
ARE YOU OKAY?


I SAW IT AGAIN

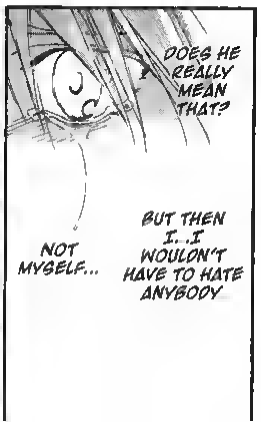
A NIGHT
ぴくっ

I-I WATCH HER DIE IN MY DREAMS
DIE? WHO?

YOU'RE ALIVE!

NOBODY'S FAULT...

AND NOT TATSUKI


DOES HE REALLY MEAN THAT?
NOT MYSELF...
BUT THEN I...I WOULDN'T HAVE TO HATE ANYBODY

I JUST WORE ON HER, AND SHE EVENTUALLY LOST IT.
I DROVE MY MOTHER MAD.

SHE PUT MY SISTER AND ME IN A CAR AND DROVE IT INTO THE SEA.

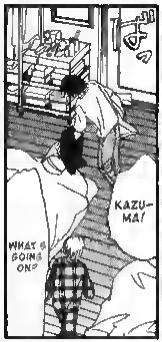
I LIVED AND MY SISTER DIED!
BUT I LIVED, DAMMIT!

YOU CAN'T BLAME ANYONE FOR A TRAGEDY.
THEY'RE NOBODY'S FAULT.

GOD, KAZUMA THAT WASN'T YOUR FAULT.
YOUR MOTHER WAS OBVIOUSLY SICK.
IT WAS A TRAGEDY.

I HAVE EVERY REASON IN THE WORLD TO HATE TATSUKI
LIKE HELL I DON'T

LOOK, KAZUMA--


KAZUMA!
WHAT'S GOING ON?

HE KEEPS FOGGING THINGS UP
IT'S EVERY TIME I'M CLOSE TO HIM
WHAT?!
WHAT DID I DO?!

GET AWAY FROM ME
HE'S DOING THIS TO ME

WHAT'S WRONG?
YOU JUST--

HUH?

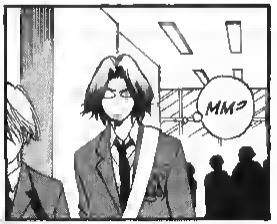
SHIT.
WHAT THE HELL AM I THINKING?
I DON'T HAVE TO HATE ANYBODY?!

KAZUMA!
ダッ!!
KAZUMA JUST LEFT ALL OF A SUDDEN.
AT THIS HOUR?
KOTAROU
WHAT'S ALL THIS?
OH, SORRY, GRAMPA--- DID I WAKE YOU UP?
ドドドド
WAIT A SEC-OND!
ガラ
DAMMIT!

フッ
TATSUKI
BEATS ME. JEEZ.
HE HAD A NIGHTMARE ABOUT HIS DEAD BIG SISTER, THEN HE STORMED OUT.
……
WHAT HAPPE-NED?
HE WAS CRYING?

I THINK I UNDERSTAND WHAT HE'S FEELING.
GOD KNOWS I DON'T LIKE MY GUY FRIENDS CATCHING ME IN TEARS.
MAYBE I SHOULD JUST WAIT UNTIL HE CALMS DOWN BEFORE I TALK TO HIM.
IT SUCKS TO BE VULNERABLE LIKE THAT IN FRONT OF PEOPLE.

HIS PURPLE'S SO DARK, IT'S PRACTICALLY BLACK.
THAT'S NOT LIKE HIM
HE SO AFRAID OF?


MM?

YIKES
THAT'S A NASTY AURA.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH KOUTARI?

OH.

GOOD MORNING, KOTA-ROU!
MORNING

KAZU-MA!

WHAT'S KOUTARI'S PROBLEM?
HE JUST BLEW YOU OFF. KIDS THESE DAYS AND THEIR MANNERS!
OH MY GOD.

THAT'S IT-- YOU'RE DEAD.
DID HE TOUCH YOU?! TELL ME HE DIDN'T TOUCH YOU!

NO.
DIDN'T HE SLEEP OVER AT YOUR PLACE LAST NIGHT?
DID YOU HAVE A FIGHT?

FINE.
THEN I'LL JUST FINISH THIS NOW.
IT'S ALMOST DONE.
MINA..
IT'S ALMOST OVER.
JUST A LITTLE BIT LONGER...

I WAS GONNA MESS WITH TATSUKI OOHIRA LITTLE BY LITTLE...
UNTIL HE WAS AS MESSED UP AS I WANTED HIM TO BE.
HEY, KOU-TARI
HEYA

NOT SO LONG AS KOTAROU'S HERE.
BUT I CAN'T DO THAT ANYMORE

IF I TAKE MY TIME, I'LL LOSE MY DRIVE
THAT KID IS DANGEROUS

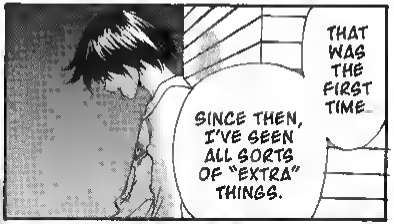
KAZUMA?!
HEY THERE.
ARMY
11
I GOT IT!
DING DONG
CAN I TALK TO TATSUKI FOR A SEC?
WHA?
YOU WANT TATSUKI?
TELL HIM I'M WAITING OUTSIDE.
UM, SURE.
HANG ON
THAT'S WEIRD
WHAT DOES HE HAVE TO SAY TO TATSUKI?

ACT 20

TAP
I HAVE RELATIVES IN YOKOHAMA.
YOUR PARENTS' PLACE IS IN YOKOHAMA
I USED TO VISIT THEM IN THE SUMMERS.
PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER YET?
SO?

... MY ENTIRE MIND WENT WHITE.
I SAW A DEAD DOG IN THE CORNER HE'D BEEN POINTING AT.

EVERYTHING WENT DOWNHILL FROM THERE. I KEPT TELLING PEOPLE WHAT I SAW, BUT IT ONLY MADE ME LOOK LIKE A NUTCASE LIAR.
EVERYONE BLAMED MY MOM FOR RAISING A PSYCHO.
IN THE END, SHE WAS THE ONE WHO LOST IT.

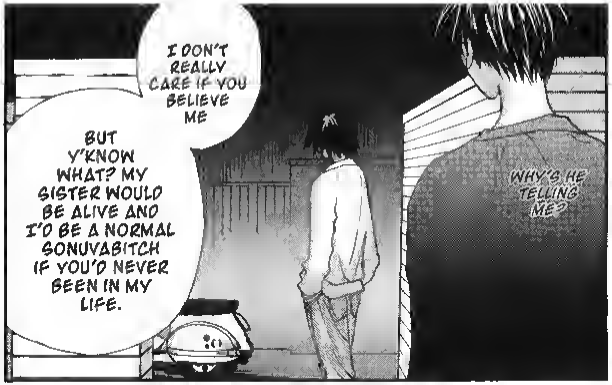

THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME.
SINCE THEN, I'VE SEEN ALL SORTS OF "EXTRA" THINGS.

HEY, MAKING THIS UP?
AND?

I SAW A KID GETTING BULLIED NEAR WHERE I WAS STAYING.
THIS ONE TIME, WHEN I WAS IN FIRST GRADE.

THEY CALLED HIM A CREEPY LIAR.
HE WAS POINTING TO THE CORNER OF AN EMPTY LOT AND SCREAMING HE COULD SEE SOMETHING.
FIVE OR SIX KIDS WERE KICKING THE TAR OUT OF HIM.

BUT THE SECOND I TOUCHED HIS FINGERS...
HE WAS CLOSE TO TEARS BY THE TIME THEY WERE DONE.
I WENT TO BRING IT TO HIM.
HIS BAG HAD BEEN TOSSED.
ME?

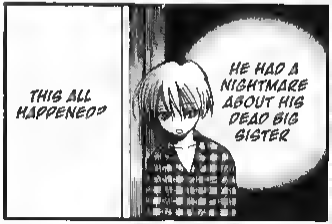

I DON'T REALLY CARE IF YOU BELIEVE ME
BUT Y'KNOW WHAT? MY SISTER WOULD BE ALIVE AND I'D BE A NORMAL SONUVABITCH IF YOU'D NEVER BEEN IN MY LIFE.
WHY'S HE TELLING ME?

THAT'S WHAT REALLY GETS ME

I ENVY YOU, ASS-HOLE
YOU'VE GOT YOUR OWN PERSONAL SWEET-HEART
?!

WHAT-EVER. I KNOW I'M JUST WASTING MY TIME HERE.
MY SISTER WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO EVER UNDER-STOOD ME.

SHE DROVE A CAR INTO THE OCEAN WITH MY SISTER AND ME INSIDE.
I MANAGED TO GET OUT.
MY SISTER DIDN'T.


THIS ALL HAPPENED?
HE HAD A NIGHTMARE ABOUT HIS DEAD BIG SISTER

!
WAIT.

HE'S AFTER KOTAROU?
SEE YOU IN SCHOOL.
BYE, ASS-HOLE.
SHIT.
HE'S NOT..
TATSUKI?
WAIT!
KOUTARI!
NOTH-ING.
HEY! YOU JERK!
.....
WHAT BROUGHT KAZUMA ALL THE WAY HERE TO TALK TO YOU?

YOU KILLED MY SISTER.
AND INSTEAD OF CHOKING IN A POOL OF YOUR OWN GUILT...
...YOU'RE PLAYING HAPPY FAMILY WITH SWEET LITTLE KOTAROU.
WHAT?!

ACT 21

IT WASN'T JUST TO TALK.
BA-BUMP
HE'S RIGHT. WHY'D KOUTARI COME TO THE HOUSE?

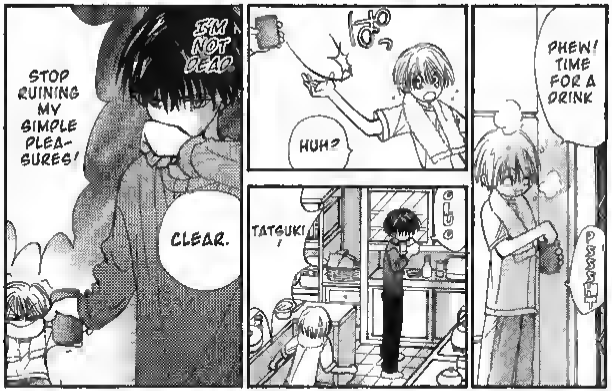
TATSUKI!
BA-BUMP
NO.
KOUTARI DID SOMETHING HERE.

GLOVES.
THEN HE DEFINITELY SCREWED WITH SOMETHING
SOMETHING OF KOTAROU'S, MAYBE.
GIVE ME YOUR HAND
UM, LOOK.
KAZUMA DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT ME, DID HE?
HEY!
WHA?!
GUK

YOU KILLED MY SISTER.
...YOU'RE PLAYING HAPPY FAMILY WITH SWEET LITTLE KOTAROU.
AND INSTEAD OF CHOKING IN A POOL OF YOUR OWN GUILT. .

TATSUKI?
WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
HEY.
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WHAT'D KAZUMA SAY?

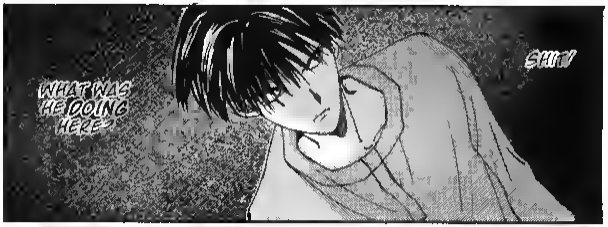
NOW THE BATH-ROOM?!
cree
TH-THIS HAD BETTER BE IMPOR-TANT!
GAH!
GRAMPA, MIND IF I TAKE MY BATH FIRST?
GO AHEAD


I'M NOT DEAD
STOP RUINING MY SIMPLE PLEA-SURES!
CLEAR.
HUH?
TATSUKI
CLUB
PHEW! TIME FOR A DRINK
PYUU

OI!

HE ERASED THE IMPORTANT PART!
ACK!

DAMN
THIS IS USELESS.


WHAT WAS HE DOING HERE?
SHIT!

UH, HELLO?
I'M SURE IT WAS BAD.
WHY'RE YOU CHECKING MY BIKE?

MY SISTER WOULD BE ALIVE AND I'D BE A NORMAL SONUVABITCH IF YOU'D NEVER BEEN IN MY LIFE.
BUT Y'KNOW WHAT?
IS THAT WHY HE HATES ME?
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE HIM.
THE IDEA THAT TOUCHING ME GAVE HIM POSTCOGNITION...
DON'T... FREAK OUT.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HE WANTS.
HE HAS TO BE.
..NO
HE'S LYING.

SHUT UP.
YOU'RE LOUD.
glance
glance
YOU'RE DONE, YOU HEAR ME?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
TATSUKI

I CAN'T FIND ANY-THING WRONG
DO WHAT YOU WANT, ASSHOLE!

KOUTARI GETS OFF ON MAKING ME PANIC.
MAYBE IT WAS A BLUFF.
AM I OVER-REACT-ING?

ACT 21

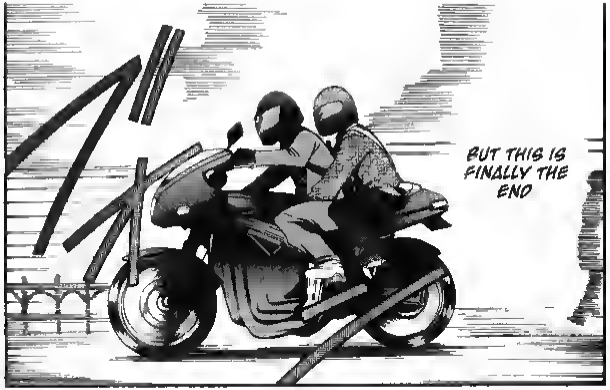
NO, GRAMPA, IT'S NOT THAT.
YOU'RE DIFFERENT THESE DAYS, TATSUKI!
IS MY LITTLE BOY GROWING UP?
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD GIVE ME A RIDE TO THE POST OFFICE?
TAH!
ER...
TATSUKI!
BUT IS YOUR BACK ALL RIGHT?
FINE WITH ME.
GOOD, YOU HAVEN'T LEFT YET.

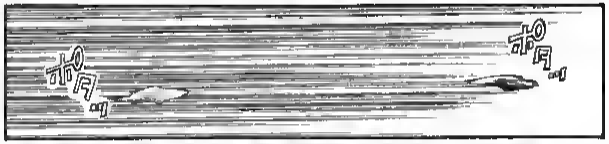
HEY
I'M GOING!
UH... GGHH.
HE DIDN'T JUST...
S-SURE
THEN... THIS IS IT.
TATSUKI SAID SORRY ?!
WHAT ?!
SORRY ABOUT LAST NIGHT.

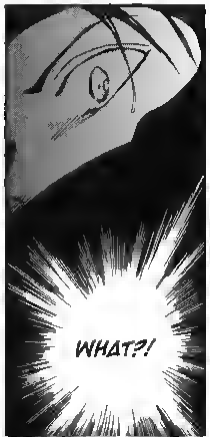
NOTHING! AND GET AWAY FROM ME!
WHY THE BIG SMILE, KIDDO?
YOUR AURA'S ALL HAPPY
BEATS ME
WHERE'S TATSUKI?
SINCE WHEN IS HE LATE?
I DON'T SEE HIM
MINA
...IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME

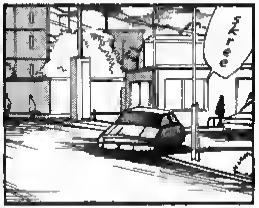
HEY
MAKE YOURSELF FREE AT LUNCH, WILL YA?
IT'S TIME WE PLAYED A LITTLE B-BALL.
MORNIN', KOTAROU!
OW!
GOOOOD MORNING! ♡
!!
THANK GOD.
I GUESS EVERY-THING'S OKAY, THEN
KAZU-MA! UH, SURE!

THE BRAKES AREN'T WORKING!
WHY--


BUT THIS IS FINALLY THE END




WHAT?!



KO-TAROU, WHAT'S THE--
HEY!
WHAT'S WRONG?
HUH?
MAYBE MAYBE IT REALLY DID END
IT'S PROB-ABLY ANE-MIA
ARE YOU OKAY?
I-I DUNNO
MY EYE-SIGHT JUST KINDA WENT DARK FOR A SECOND
KOTA-ROU'S NOT EATING HIS VEGGIES!
WAIT
DID KOTAROU JUST FEEL SOMETHING?
OH, SHUT UP I EAT FINE

ACT 21

WHA?
COME HERE, PLEASE
clatter
YES, SIR
!
MINA!
THAT TEACHER'S AURA IS PURPLE-BLACK.
HE'S SCARED?
OH MY GOD
OOHIRA
I NEED YOU TO KEEP CALM
IS EVERY-THING OKAY, SIR?
YO, YUU-TO.

OOHIRA!
I NEED KOTAROU OOHIRA.
NOW, THIS LEADS TO
MOVING ON
THE USAGE OF THE AUXILIARY VERB "KERI"
WHAT'S TATSUKI UP TO?
I CAN'T REALLY SEE HIM PLAYING HOOKY
UH, YES?

ACT 21

Y-YEAH.
YOU KNOW HOW TOUGH TATSUKI IS
IT'S OKAY, KOTAROU
HE'S GONNA BE FINE
IT'S NOT OVER YET.
NO.
I HAVE TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED.
YES?
SEN-SEI
I DON'T FEEL WELL CAN I GO HOME?

WHAT. WHAT'S CRITIC--
CRITICAL?
TATSUKI HAD AN ACCIDENT WITH HIS MOTOR-CYCLE THIS MORNING.
!!
THE DOCTORS ARE SAYING IT'S CRITICAL.
OOHIRA?
URUSHI-YAMA
I'D LIKE TO GO WITH HIM, SIR
YES, WOULD YOU DO THAT?

OH MY GOD!
TATSU-KI!
BUT YOU'RE...
I THOUGHT YOU WERE REALLY HURT!
WELL, I'M NOT GETTING BACK THOSE YEARS YOU SCARED OFF.
!!
WE BROKE EVERY SPEED LIMIT OVER HERE BECAUSE WE HEARD YOU WERE DYING!
IT DIDN'T WORK?!

HUH?
OH HI, AUNTIE
THERE YOU ARE! HURRY!
AH! KOTA-ROU!
YAY!
WAY TO ALMOST GIVE ME A HEART ATTACK!
THAT WASN'T VERY NICE OF KITA-MURA-SENSEI

WHAT HAPPENED, TATSUKI?!
DID YOU CRASH WHEN YOUR GRANDFATHER WAS RIDING WITH YOU?!
WHAT?!
WAIT
WAIT
GRAMPA
LOOK AT ME!
N-NO. THAT WASN'T ME
I JUST WANTED HIM TO..
THAT WASN'T MY FAULT.

YOUR GRAND-FATHER'S VERY HURT!
COME HERE AND HOLD HIS HAND!
HE'S BEEN HOLDING ON, WAITING FOR YOU.
G-GRAMPA?
BUT WHY'S..

LOOK AT HIM. LOOK HOW THAT MAKES HIM FEEL!
BE-CAUSE OF HIM...
...HIS LOVED ONES ARE HURT.
HE WAS THE ONE WHO BROUGHT HIS GRANDFATHER.
A-AND IT WASN'T EVEN MY FAULT.
...AND FINALLY BE FREE!
NOW I CAN LEAVE THAT BASTARD...
THIS ENDS EVERYTHING.

NO! OH GOD!
PLEASE!
GRAMPA!
I'M NOT BAD. I'M NOT.
WHY WOULON'T I WANT TO SEE HIM SUFFER LIKE THIS?
THIS IS.. YES!

HIS AURA'S REALLY OFF
THAT DARK GRAY IS DISTURBING
IS HE SICK?
!
HUH?
THAT LOOKS LIKE KOUTARI
WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?
KOTAROU
..I SHOULD BE F-FREE
BUT MY B-BODY'S TOO HEAVY TO FLY.
MINA...
HELP ME!

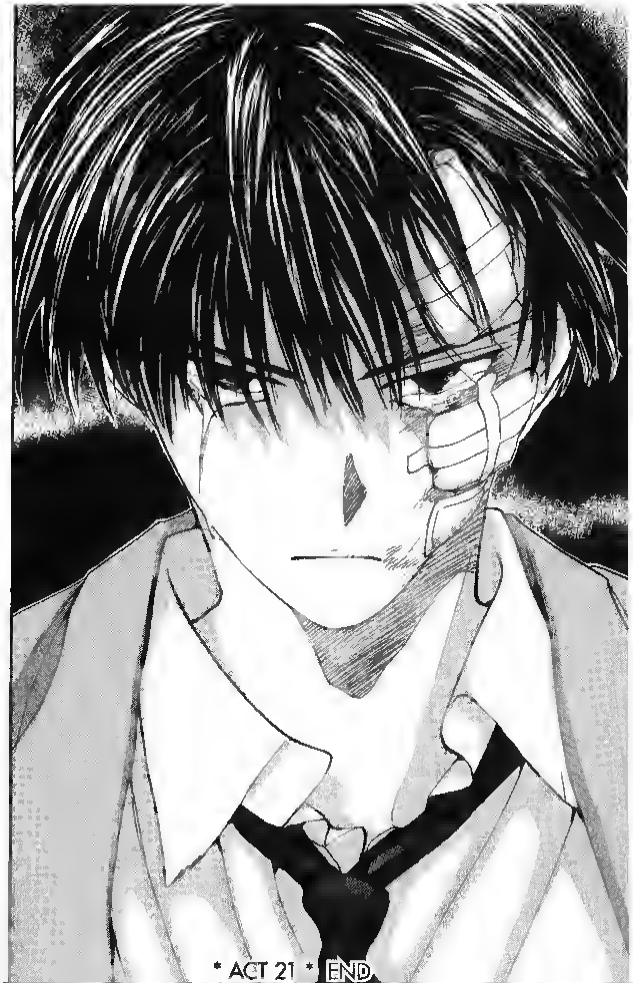
WHEN YOU WERE THE ONE WHO...
WHY ?!
HEY
STOP IT, KOTA-ROU!

DON'T TOUCH ME!
DON'T, KOTAROU! THAT'S NOT FAIR!
I DON'T CARE HOW YOU DRIVE THAT SOUPED-UP PIECE OF SHIT SO LONG AS YOU DO IT ALONE!
WHY'D YOU PUT HIM ON YOUR BIKE?!
WHY GRAMPA ?!
BUT WHY ..

KOUTARI HATES ME.
HE SAYS I KILLED HIS SISTER
BECAUSE MY RECKLESSNESS KILLED GRAMPA.
AND KOTAROU HATES ME
WHAT ABOUT ME?

HIS AURA'S THAT NASTY GRAY.
JUST LIKE KOUTARI, FOR SOME REASON.
BUT WHY?
DAMMIT
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FIX THIS MESS?
NN.
KO-TAROU.
LET'S GO TO YOUR GRAND-FATHER
NNGH

I WANT TO FIND HIM AND..
WITHOUT ANY INSURANCE? HA!
I WANT TO HATE SOMEBODY
IT HURTS
WHO CAN I HATE?
I'LL MAKE THAT BITCH SUFFER LIKE I HAVE!
ER, I'M SORRY.
WE CAN'T TAKE HIM HOME, EITHER.
WHO PUT ME HERE?
J- JUST LET ME DIE!



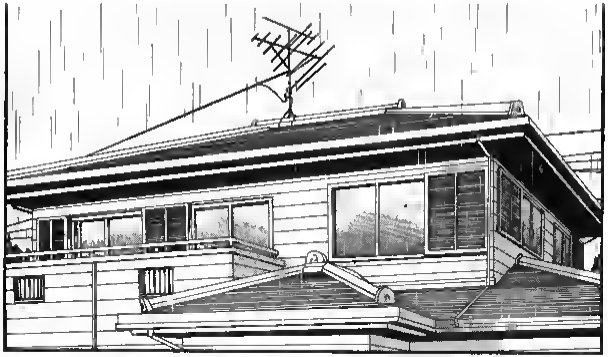
* ACT 21 * END

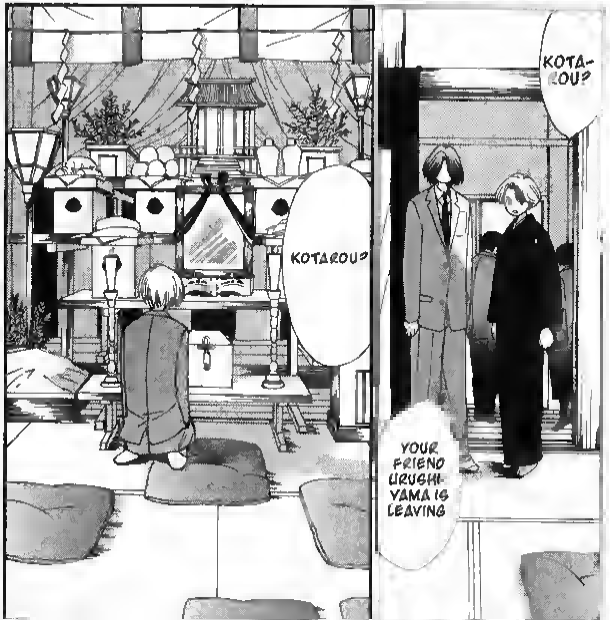
ACT 22

I SEE TATSUKI DIDN'T COME
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT CAN I STOP BY TOMORROW?
OF COURSE YOU CAN.
DARK BLUE-PURPLE.
I KNOW HOW HARD THIS MUST BE FOR YOU, KID

I FEEL TERRIBLE FOR THOSE TWO BOYS.
THEY WERE SO FOND OF THEIR GRAND-FATHER
WELL, CHIZURU COULDN'T COME BACK TO JAPAN ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE
POOR THING.
IT'S TOO BAD HE CAN'T BE WITH HIS FATHER

I JUST . DON'T KNOW WHAT TO TELL THEM
YOU AND ME BOTH, MA'AM




KOTAROU?
KOTA-KOU?
YOUR FRIEND URUSHI-YAMA IS LEAVING

ACT 22

WHAT WAS THAT?
?

TATSUKI?!

GRAMPA
DID YOU REMEMBER EVERYTHING?
GOOD-BYE, KOTAROU
HAVE FUN AND BE CAREFUL

I-I WISH I'D GOTTEN MORE TIME WITH YOU .

THEN THAT CRASH WAS
GRAMPA'S BONSAI TREE!
HEY!
KOTARO
TATSUKI!
I KNOW THAT
BUT...
DAD.
LEAVE HIM ALONE
TATSUKI'S IN A LOT OF PAIN RIGHT NOW

TATSUKI, WHAT'VE YOU BEEN DOING?
DID YOU JUST GET HOME?
THAT LOOKS LIKE BLOOD!
DID HE GET HURT?!

.....
EVERY-ONE SAYS THEY MISS YOU.
COME BACK TO SCHOOL
YOU'RE LOSING SOME SERIOUS B-BALL TIME STAYING HOME LIKE THIS
WHAT NOW?
THAT'S WORRY
BLUE-GREEN?
HUH?
WHA?!
GAH!
BUT...
WHY?!
MY PARENTS THOUGHT
IT MIGHT BE BETTER FOR ME TO COME HOME

.....
THAT'S NOT
DON'T TELL ME HE HASN'T BEEN TALKING TO YOU AT ALL
HE WAS OUT 'TIL MORN-ING?
YIKES
I MEAN, HE WAS DRIVING THE BIKE THAT KILLED HIS GRANDFATHER
I THINK TATSUKI'S GONNA HAVE SOME SERIOUS TROUBLE GETTING OVER THIS ONE
Y'KNOW, KIDDO
KOTAROU NAG TO JUMP HIS OWN HURDLE, FI-GET
IT'S NO WONDER HE DOESN'T STAY HOME MUCH!
AND SEEING KOTAROU SO DEPRESSED MUST BE COMPLETE HELL FOR THE GUY.

I DON'T KNOW, YUUTO.

LOOK, YOU DON'T HAVE TO TALK
I'M NOT SURE ANYTHING I COULD SAY WOULD CHEER HIM UP
I TRIED AT THE FUNERAL.
JUST KEEP HIM COMPANY FOR A WHILE.

MM.
THE MORE KOTAROU'S LEFT TO BROOD BY HIMSELF, THE MORE NEGATIVE HE GETS.
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT.

BUT THEY CAN'T... DAMMIT!
I WON'T LET THEM SPLIT, LIKE THIS!

I JUST

I'M NOT QUITTING SCHOOL.
TELL ME YOU'RE KIDDING!
QUITTING SCHOOL WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING!

I DON'T THINK I COULD HANDLE US LIVING IN THIS HOUSE ALONE
WELL, YOU KNOW HOW TATSUKI'S BEEN.
GOO.

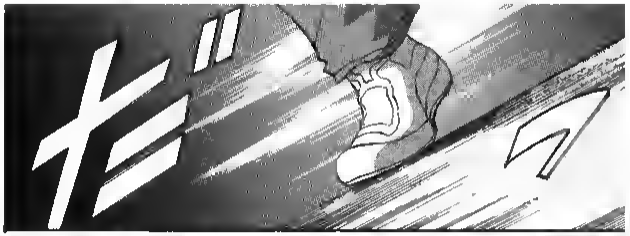
HE'S REALLY LOSING TOUCH WITH TATSUKI.
OH, MAN.

IT'S ONE AGAINST FOUR!
CLICK
CLICK
DAMN.
THAT GUY'S REALLY GOING AT IT.
CLICK

?!

THAT'S NOT...

HUH?



GGH!
EIGHT-- I KNEW IT
JACKPOT!

sh.ff

YOU LITTLE SHIT!
GET BACK HERE!

SMILE FOR THE BIRDIE.
CLICK

HE COULDN'T HAVE...
CHRRK
CHRRK
NO WAY.
NO WAY.
WHY'S MY CAMERA BROKEN?!
HUH?
WHAT WAS THAT NOISE?
トン
ガタン
SON OF A BITCH!
WAIT!
..WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

TATSUKI OOHIRA?!
!!

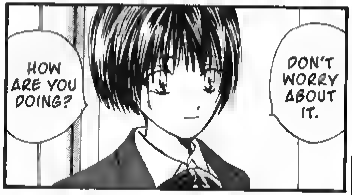
I KNOW I'M BEING TOTALLY PATHETIC
I JUST... CAN'T GET MYSELF TO MOVE ON.
TONS OF MY FRIENDS LOST GRANDPARENTS, AND THEY ALL GOT OVER IT.

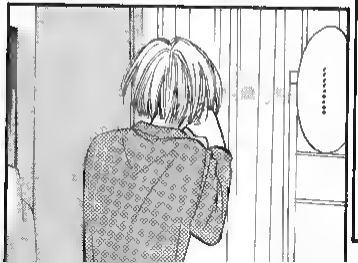
.....

ALTHOUGH YOU ALWAYS GIVE ME STRENGTH
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T DO IT IN RETURN

HUH?
I'M SORRY
SORRY FOR WHAT?

TAKE YOUR TIME, HEE!
HELLO THERE


HOW ARE YOU DOING?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.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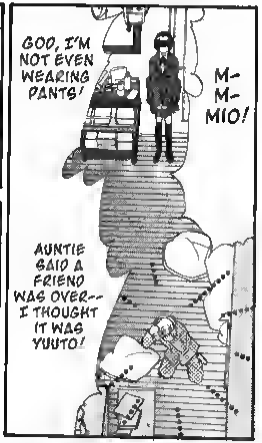
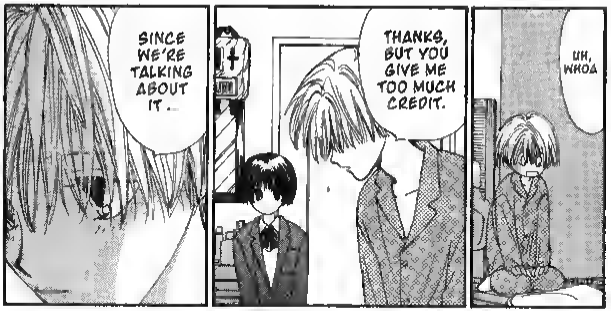

GOD, I'M NOT EVEN WEARING PANTS!
M-M-MIO!
AUNTIE SAID A FRIEND WAS OVER-- I THOUGHT IT WAS YUUTO!

ACT 22

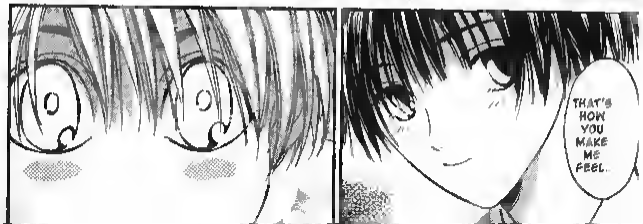

SINCE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT IT...
THANKS, BUT YOU GIVE ME TOO MUCH CREDIT.
UH, WHOA

DON'T BE SO DOWN ON YOURSELF
YOU GIVE ME STRENGTH ALL THE TIME.

AND YOU MAY NOT UNDERSTAND EVEN IF I TELL YOU.
I'M NOT SURE HOW TO DESCRIBE IT.

UH-HUH
GIVE YOU STRENGTH?

BUT, FOR EXAMPLE...
THIS ONE TIME, I HAD A FIGHT WITH A FRIEND AT SCHOOL.
I WAS REALLY AGGRAVATED BY IT, BUT THEN SEEING YOU DISSOLVED THE FRUSTRATION IN MY MIND.
IT CHANGED MY ATTITUDE--I FELT REALLY POSITIVE, AND DECIDED THAT TALKING TO HER AGAIN MIGHT HELP.

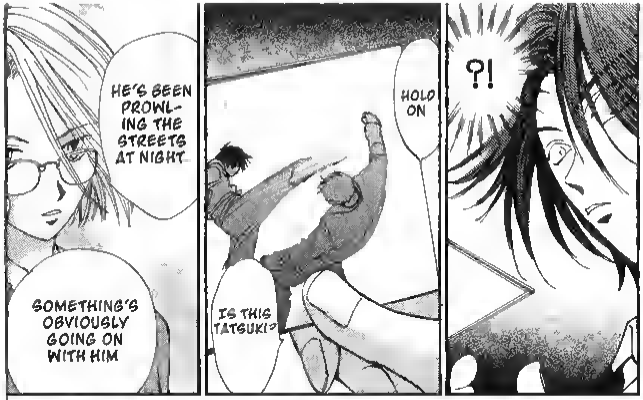

THAT'S HOW YOU MAKE ME FEEL.

KOUTARI
HE'S GOT A HELL OF A COLD
Karma strikes
WOW OUR CLASS IS, LIKE, CURSED
WHY? IS SOME-ONE ELSE OUT?
I KNOW
JUST PLAY ALONG, ALL RIGHT?
REALLY?
MM.
MAN.
I HOPE HE'S OKAY.
...MINA...

NO WAY!
KOTA-ROU'S BACK!
KOTAROU!
GOOD MORNING.
WE THOUGHT YOU DITCHED AND RAN BACK TO NIIGATA
HEY, KID!
DON'T SCARE US LIKE THAT
ER, COURSE NOT.
HE MUST BE SICK OF HOSPITAL FOOD
HOW'S TATSUKI DOING?
STILL HURT?
IS HE EVER HE BROKE HIS LEG AND CAN'T LEAVE FOR A MONTH.
HE --
MMPH!
WELCOME BACK
HEY
YEAH.
LOVE TO MIO!

I'VE BEEN WITH A FEW FRIENDS--THEY'RE GOING THROUGH A ROUGH PATCH.
SORRY, SORRY!
SERIOUSLY, I DIDN'T FORGET YOU. HOW COULD I?
BUT YOU CAN MAKE IT BETTER ♡
MM. YEAH, IT HAS BEEN TOUGH.
WHAT? NO, NO--GUY FRIENDS.
YES, REALLY!
SHINJUKU? WHAT TIME?
YEAH? OF COURSE I WOULD!
SINCE WHEN AM I NOT TRUST-WORTHY?
YOUR LIBIDO HAS ROTTEN TIMING.
?!

I CAN'T GO ANYWHERE.
I CAN'T...FLY ANYMORE.
MY WINGS.
THEY'RE ROTTING OFF ME.


HE'S BEEN PROWLING THE STREETS AT NIGHT.
SOMETHING'S OBVIOUSLY GOING ON WITH HIM
HOLD ON
IS THIS TATSUKI?
?!

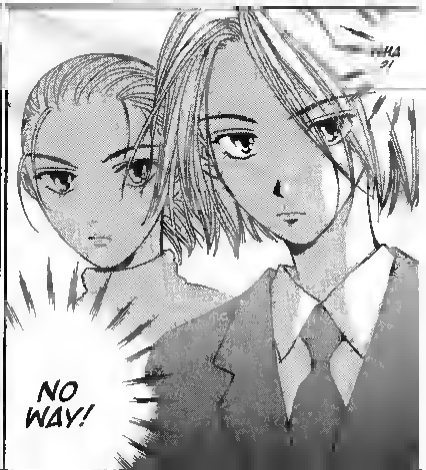
WAIT.
YOU'RE SAYING TATSUKI BROKE IT?
...I CAUGHT HIS EYE THROUGH MY VIEWFINDER.
RIGHT AFTER I TOOK THAT...
AND GUESS WHAT?
MY CAMERA BROKE.

HUH?
AND JUST WHO ARE YOU?
YUUTO? HELLO?

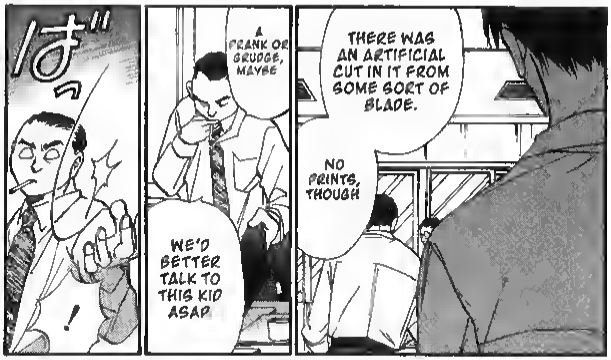
?

I THINK ONE OF YOUR "POOR FRIENDS" HAS GONE OFF THE DEEP END.

SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU...
IT'S KAREN INCOGNITO!
Is that another girl?!


HA ?!
NO WAY!

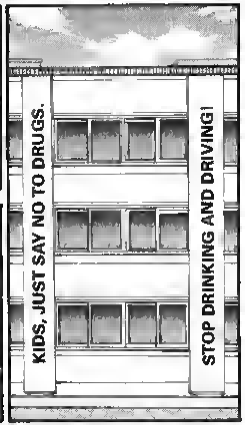
ACT 22

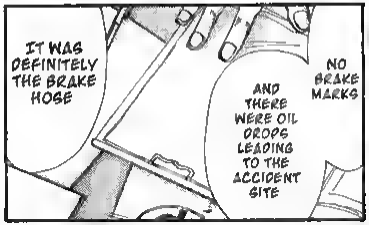

ば"
!
A GRUDGE, MAYBE
WE'D BETTER TALK TO THIS KID ASAP.
THERE WAS AN ARTIFICIAL CUT IN IT FROM SOME SORT OF BLADE.
NO PRINTS, THOUGH

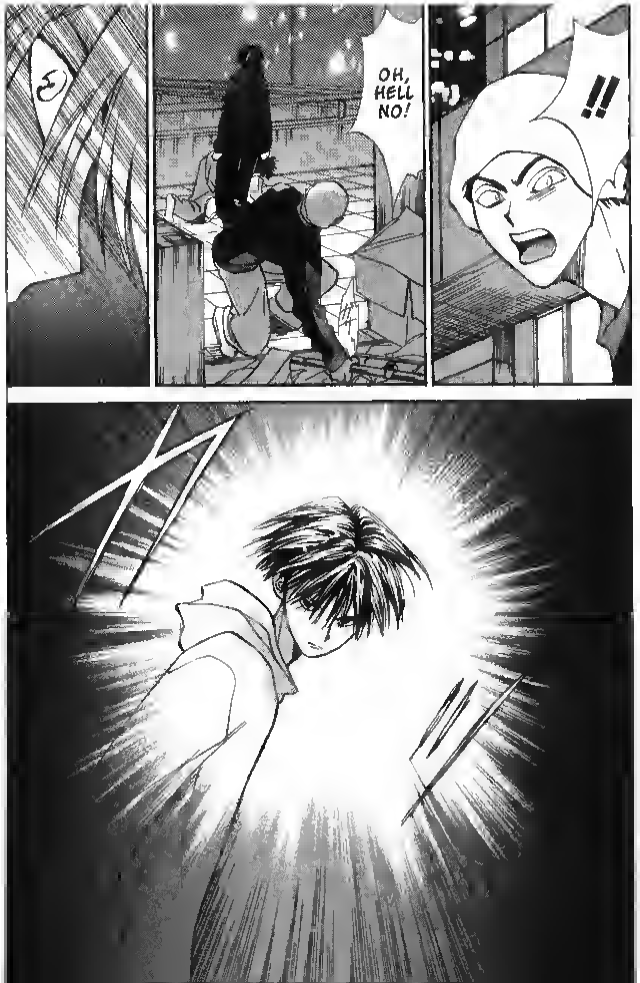
N
PLENTY, SIR
KIBA!
WHAT HAVE I SAID ABOUT POKING YOUR NOSE INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S CASES?!

HOW THE HELL DOES THAT HAPPEN?!

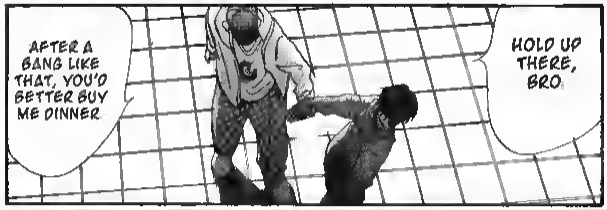
LET'S SEE 'EM.
CRIME LAB
THE CRIME LAB RESULTS ARE IN


KIDS, JUST SAY NO TO DRUGS.
STOP DRINKING AND DRIVING!


IT WAS DEFINITELY THE BRAKE HOSE
NO BRAKE MARKS
AND THERE WERE OIL DROPS LEADING TO THE ACCIDENT SITE


OH, HELL NO!
!!

HEY!
TO SCREW OFF?
SO GUESS WHAT I TOLD HIM.
HA HA HA!


AFTER A BANG LIKE THAT, YOU'D BETTER BUY ME DINNER.
HOLD UP THERE, BRO.

WHA?
SHIT!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
SHIT
BUT

A Battle of Semantics

Hands Off, Please Part II

Time sure does fly. Volume 6 already! Thanks for reading, guys--you make my world a better place.

Although the plot's getting pretty heavy these days...

...we'll always have the Afterword to goof off some of the tension.

Have fun ♡

The Truth of the Oohira Family ②

...involves a black or navy nylon zip-up
Tatsuki's basic outfit...
THAT GUY WOULDN'T CHANGE HIS STYLE IF HE WERE DEAD
HE'S GOTTA HAVE A LOT OF SPARES FOR LAUNDRY.
AND HE'D HANG THEM UP IN THE ORDER CLEANED! AND THERE'D BE, LIKE, TEN OF 'EM!
Ha ha!
Ha ha!
YEAH--I BET HE COMPULSIVELY WASHES THEM
ぴちっ
In actuality, twenty

The Truth of the Oohira Family ①

Setback ②

MAYBE I SHOULD CROP THE STUFF?
HMM... I THINK I'M GROWING OUT OF THE LONG HAIR
THINK OF THE IMAGE REJUVENATION!
OOH, NOT BAD
HUH? WHY NOT?
NO NO NO NO! YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
Author
And thus he kept his flowing locks
I WON'T BE ABLE TO DRAW YOU DIFFERENTLY FROM MINAMI!

Setback ①

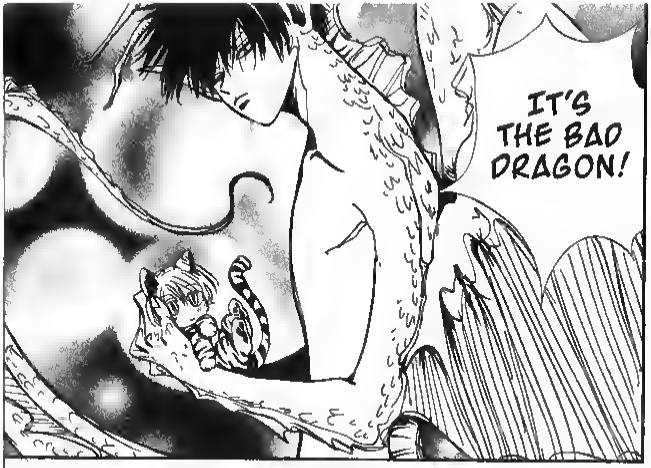
Nature Special

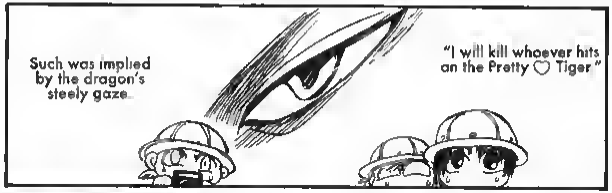
Touching!

Observing the Pretty ♡ Tiger in exotic locales!

Mystery!

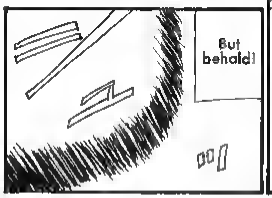
OUR MISSION IS THIS!
WE MUST FIND THE PHANTOM PRETTY TIGER! ♡
ASSISTANT CHIBA HERE
HELLO! I'M THE CHIEF OF THE EXPEDITION
ATTENDING PHOTOGRAPHER, KAREN KITAGAWA
WHAT WAS THAT?!
MY GOD!
OVER THERE!
Then!
ACK!
YET THE PRETTY TIGER SHOWED NEITHER PRETTY HEAD NOR PRETTY HIDE ♡
THE EXPEDITION TRUDGED THROUGH THE WILD

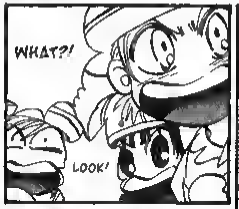


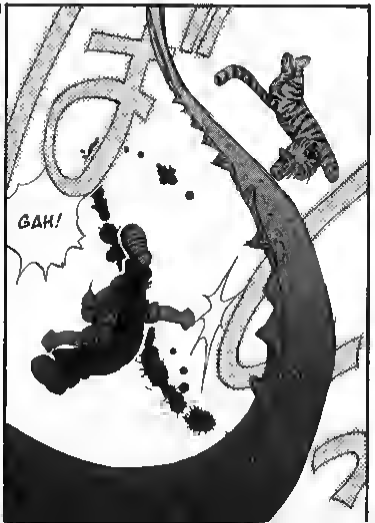


THAT'S ALL FOR OUR SPECIAL PROJECT
'TILL NEXT TIME ♡
But, seriously!
Wait for me!
At the end of the day, it was an appropriate lesson learned on a very special safari
END
C H I E F
Crap- I missed a good shot
LET'S GO HOME
They decided to leave the phantasms as just that

* Afterword * END







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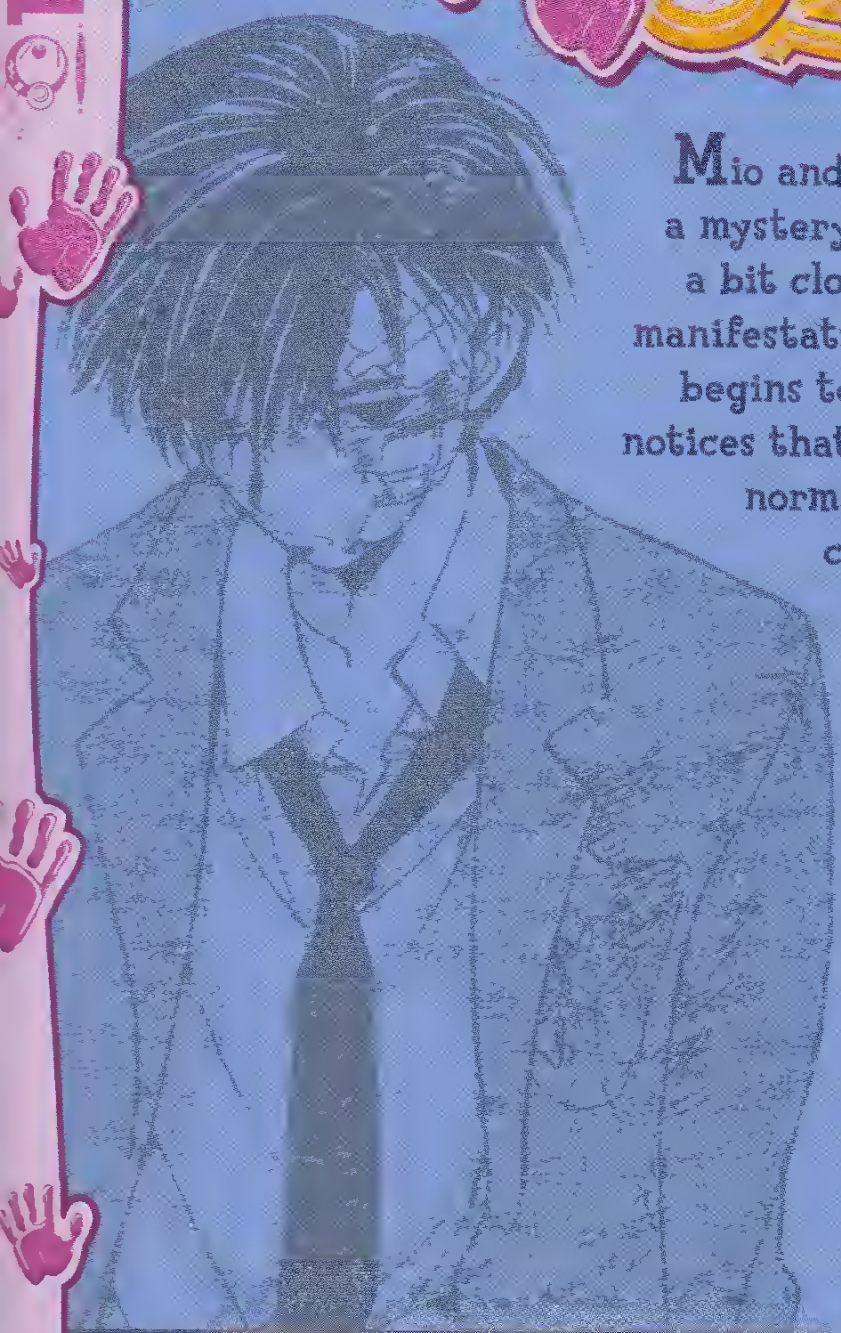

Mio and Karen meet at last in a mystery that brings everyone a bit closer. But a strange new manifestation of Kotarou's power begins to surface, and Kotarou notices that his touch is less than normal. Meanwhile, Kazuma confronts Tatsuki with an eerie message that puts Tatsuki on the edge—with danger on the way, will Tatsuki be ready when it finally hits?

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